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III. *An Account of the Falls of the River Niagara, taken at Albany, Octob. 10. 1721. from Monsieur Borassaw, a French Native of Canada. By the Honourable Paul Dudley, Esq; F. R. S.*

THE Falls of *Niagara* are a mighty Ledge or Precipice of solid Rock, that lies across the whole breadth of the River (a little before it empties it self into, or forms the Lake *Ontario*) and very steep.

Monsieur *Borassaw* never measur'd the Falls himself, though he has been there at seven different Times: But what he says is, That,

This last Spring the Governour of *Canada*, Monsieur *Vaudreil*, ordered his own Son, with three other Officers, viz. Messieurs *Longue Isle*, *St. Ville*, and *Laubineau* to Survey *Niagara*, and take the exact height of the Cataract, which they accordingly did with a Stone of half an hundred Weight, and a large Cod-line, and found it upon a Perpendicular no more than twenty six Fathom; his Words were *Vingt & Six Bras*.

This differs very much from the Account Father *Hennepin* has given the World of that Cataract, for he makes it an hundred Fathom; and our Modern Maps from him, as I suppose, mark it at six hundred Feet; but I believe *Hennepin* never measured it, and there is no guessing at such Things.

When

When I objected *Hennepin's* Account of those Falls, to Monsieur *Borassaw*, he replied ; That accordingly every Body had depended upon it as right until the late Survey. Upon further Discourse he acknowledged, That below the Cataract for a great way, there were numbers of small Ledges, or Stairs cross the River, that lower'd it still more and more, till you come to a Level ; so that if all the Descents be put together, he does not know but the Difference of the Water above the Falls, and the Level below, may come up to Father *Hennepin*, but the strict and proper Cataract upon a perpendicular, is no more than twenty six Fathom, or an hundred and fifty six Foot, which yet is a prodigious Thing, and what the World I suppose cannot parallel, considering the greatness of the River, for it is near a Quarter of an *English* Mile broad, and very deep Water.

Several other Things Monsieur *Borassaw* set me right in, as to the Falls of *Niagara*. Particularly it has been said, That the Cataract makes such a prodigious noise, that People can't hear one another speak, at some Miles distance, whereas he affirms, you may converse together close by.

I have also heard it positively asserted, That the Shoot of the River, when it comes to the Precipice, was with such a mighty force, that Men and Horse might march under the Body of the River without being wet. This also he utterly denies, and says the Water falls in a manner right down.

What he observ'd farther to me was,

That the Mist or Shower (his Word was *La Brume*) which the Falls make, is so extraordinary, as to be
seen

seen at five Leagues distance, and rises as high as the common Clouds. In this Brume or Cloud, when the Sun shines, you have always a glorious Rainbow.

Of the River it self, which is there called the River *Niagara*, he tells me it is much narrower at the Falls, than either above or below, and that from below there is no coming nearer the Falls by Water, than about six *English* Miles, the Torrent is so rapid, and withal such terrible Whirl-pools.

He confirms Father *Hennepin's* and Mr. *Kellug's* Account of the large Trouts of those Lakes, and solemnly affirmed there was one taken lately, that weighed eighty six Pounds; which I am the rather inclined to believe upon the general Rule that Fish are according to their Waters. To confirm which, a very worthy Minister, now alive in *New England*, affirmed to me; That while he was a Prisoner at *Mon-real*, in *Canada* River, he saw a Pike brought up one Day from the River to the Governour's House, and carried upon a Pole between two Men, that measured Five Foot, and Ten Inches long, and proportionably large.

I my self this last Summer, saw a Cataract, three Leagues above *Albany*, in the Province of *New York*, upon *Schenectada* River called the *Cohoes*, which they count much of there; and yet that is not above 40 or 50 Foot perpendicular. From these Falls also there rises a misty Cloud, which descends like small Rain, that, when the Sun shines, gives a handsome small Rainbow that moves as you move, according to the Angle of Vision. The River at the *Cohoes* is to 40 or 50 Rods broad, but then it is very shallow Water, for I was told that in a dry Time, the whole River runs in a Channel of not more than fifteen Foot wide.

In my Journey to *Albany*, 20 Miles to the Eastward of *Hudson's* River, near the middle of a long rising Hill, I met with a brisk noisy Brook sufficient to serve a Water-Mill, and having observed nothing of it at the beginning of the Hill, I turned about and followed the Course of the Brook, till at length I found it come to an End, being Absorb'd, and sinking into the Ground, either passing through Subterraneous Passages, or soaked up with the Sand; and tho' it be common in other Parts of the World for Brooks and even Rivers thus to be lost; yet this is the first of the Sort, I have heard of, or met with in this Country.

P. Dudley.

IV. *A Letter from Mr. Leeuwenhoeck, F. R. S. concerning the Muscular Fibres in several Animals, and the Magnetick Quality acquired by Iron, upon standing for a long time in the same Posture.*

Delft, Apr. 21st, 1722.

To the Illustrious Royal Society.

Honoured Sirs,

IN a Letter I receiv'd sometime ago from one of your Secretaries, among many Expressions of your kind Acceptance of my Labours. I am requested by that Gentle-